

CHARLESTON, S.C.
NEWS & COURIER

M - 66,056
S - 87,599

FEB 21 1977

A Military Man For The CIA

After an embarrassing first try with the selection of Theodore Sorensen to head the CIA, President Carter had a good second thought. He nominated Adm. Stansfield Turner, now commander of allied forces in Southern Europe, and a former classmate at the Naval Academy.

Adm. Turner's background and performance have been thoroughly scrutinized during long service to his country. He will undergo yet another thorough screening when the Senate considers his qualifications to direct the Central Intelligence Agency.

General reaction to his nomination has been favorable. Adm. Turner is an innovative intellectual who has served capably in the commands he has held. His career has provided him experience with the fleet, NATO, systems analysis, the Naval War College — all central to the responsibilities of an intelligence chief.

Reservations are expressed in some quarters that President Carter tapped a military man for the CIA job. It is said by those expressing doubts that a professional military man can't be expected to be interested in anything beyond the concerns of the services; that politically he is out of his depth. The argument is unfair and misguided. There have been many examples of versatile and accomplished military men who served with distinction in non-military positions of great responsibility.

Adm. Turner seems unlikely to be subjected to the crossfire of public opinion that greeted Mr. Sorensen's nomination, and that in itself augurs well for the CIA.